III. REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claim 18 is amended. Claims 12-13, 14, and 16 are canceled. New claim 19 is added. Claims 2-7, 10, 11, 15, and 17-19 are submitted for reconsideration.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 2-7 and 10-18 stand rejected under 35USC103(a) on the basis of the cited reference Chou, et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,737,489 in view of the cited reference Boman, et al, U.S. Patent No 6,480,819. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejection in view of the following remarks. Claim 16 is indicated to contain patentable subject matter.

New claim 19 is presented in accordance with the Examiner's statement of allowable subject matter, as it contains all of the limitations of canceled claim 16, including claim 18 and intervening claim 14.

Independent claim 18 is amended to include the limitations of claim 13, including intervening claim 12.

The Invention

According to independent claim 18, the present invention relates to a method for inputting data into a system wherein, in the first step, one or more terms are identified in response to a user input, in particular in response to a spoken user input by means of a voice recognition system. A speaker identification step provides the context for the voice recognition system. For

each of the identified terms a confidence value is determined that indicates the likelihood that the identified term matches the user input. This confidence value is determined only by comparing the user input with each of the identified terms.

Discussion of the Cited Reference

The Examiner has cited the reference Chou, et al as support for the rejection based on obviousness with respect to claim 13. In particular the text contained in column 14, lines 55-67, as follows:

> "The performance of utterance verification systems can be enhanced by selection of an appropriate critical threshold. Thresholds can be set according to a predefined criterion, such as to obtain a minimum total error rate, or to achieve an equal error rate in which false rejection errors (Type I) equal false acceptance errors (Type II). The verification threshold may be set initially to obtain a desired trade-off between false rejection errors (Type I) and false acceptance errors (Type II). The respective error rates may be effected by environmental disparity between the training data and the testing data. Environmental disparity can include different speakers, with different accents, or different surrounding ambient noise."

Applicant submits that this excerpt is not related to speaker identification, according to the subject invention. Speaker identification provides a limited context within which the voice recognition system is adapted to operate. This improves the voice recognition confidence. The above text is directed to establishing a verication threshold based on false errors.

According to the subject invention, as described in claim 18, after identifying the speaker, a composite probability value is determined for a candidate term, which is calculated based on its base probability value and a further factor representing the

history of use of the candidate term over a period of time. There is no mention in the reference Chou of incorporating speaker identification in such a method.

Thus, the system of this application provides a method in which a composite probability value is used that is based on the historical usage of words by an identified user of a speech recognition system.

The above arguments apply equally to the rejected dependent claims.

The Issue of Obviousness

It is well settled that in order to establish a prima facie case for obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, without reference to the disclosure of this application.

Applicant submits that the above described deficiencies of the primary reference Chou et al are not remedied by the proposed combination with the teaching of the reference Boman. The combined references do not therefore support a prima-facie case of obviousness. The modification of the teachings of Chou or Boman, in order to obtain the invention, as described in the claims submitted herein, would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and

are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.
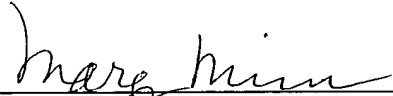
Respectfully submitted,

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